



## **HELMUTH: The Boskone Newsletter**

Special email edition for past and current Boskone members

**Boskone 63, Email 1**

**Wednesday, January 7, 2026**

**[Boskone Blog](#)**

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Dear Boskone Family,

Boskone 63 is under 2 months away, and planning is well underway. We will have all of the things that make Boskone a Boston Favorite for over 60 years!!

We welcome our Guests for this year's Convention and encourage you to check out the website for more information on these folks at <https://boskone.org/guests/featured-guests/>

**Greg Cox** - Guest of Honor

**Charles Urbach** - Official Artist

**Stefan Rudnicki** - Special Guest

**Diego Patrimonio** - Hal Clement Science Speaker

**Keith R.A. DeCandido** - Master of Ceremonies

The festivities begin on Friday with "FREE FRIDAY". Programming is free to the public from 3-6pm. Yes, it's enticing and a great marketing scheme to give you a taste!! To see the Opening Ceremonies and Awards Ceremony on Friday evening hosted by Keith R. A. DeCandido - you will need to buy a membership!!

We've got great things this year with our Special Guest Stefan Rudnicki and his partner in everything Gabrielle de Cuir. You may not recognize the names or faces, but you will the VOICE. Greg Cox has just released his newest Star Trek TOS book "Identity Theft" AND the NESFA Press Short Story Collection "Dubious Pleasures" with

original cover Art by our OFFICIAL ARTIST - Charles Urbach. Enjoy Live Interviews, Dramatic Presentations and a PLANETARIUM brought to us by our Science Speaker Diego Patrimonio. Learn about everything science in the universe. There will be something for everyone and all ages!!

Hope to see you there Feb 13-15, 2026 at The Westin Boston Seaport District

Maria Daggett Eskinazi  
Chair - Boskone 63

[Visit the Boskone Website](#)



[BUY A MEMERSHIP](#)

On-line Rates good through

January 20th 2026

(at the door rates will be higher)

## MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Our convention hotel is **The Westin Boston Seaport District**.

All guest rooms include in-room WiFi as well as free WiFi in the lobby area.

### **Reservations for our block rate are available now.**

Make your booking soon to be sure you don't miss out. The block rates will be good through **January 22, 2026**, or until the block is sold out.

**NOTE:** Boskone's room block almost always sells out. So, please book your room early.

Please go to <https://boskone.org/hotel/accommodations> to make your reservations. Please note that Boskone 63 members using this link will **NOT** be charged the daily Destination Fee, even though it may appear in their Bonvoy Accounts or on the Marriott website.

There is one booking link this year. The first thing you will be asked is whether you want a Quiet Block or Party Block room.

Guest Room Rates — \$204 plus tax (currently 16.45%) for Single/Double/Triple/Quad

**\*Party Block Notice:** When making your reservation for a room in the "Party Block," please note that this year we're requiring people to book for both Friday and Saturday to avoid holes in the party block that could potentially be filled with non-Boskone attendees who could potentially complain about noise and cause parties to shut down early. If you don't mind being a "buffer" room, please let us know.

[View Boskone's Hotel Page](#)

## PROGRAM

The program team is hard at work building an incredible schedule for Boskone. We are excited to feature special events including the Boskone Dance, a performance of *Mrs. Hawking*, and a production by the Post-Meridian Radio Players (PMRP). **Dragonslair**, Boskone's programming for ages 5 to 12, will have over 12 hours of programming over the three days of the convention.

Participant emails have been sent; if you were expecting one, please check your inbox and spam folder.

For a look at who is joining us this year, visit our [Program Participants page](#). If you have questions, please reach out to us at [program@boskone.org](mailto:program@boskone.org).

Explore the [AT THE CON](#) page - your information gateway

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### NEW FOR BOSKONE: THE PORTABLE PLANETARIUM

Hal Clement Science Speaker [Diego Patrimonio](#) has arranged for a portable planetarium to come to Boskone. Welcome to the great age of searching for planets outside of our solar system! From successful planet finder missions CoRoT, Kepler, TESS and others, detecting alien worlds is no longer science fiction. Thirty-minute shows will run on Saturday and Sunday and are open to all ages. No advance sign-up is required; if a show is full, you will receive a timed ticket for a later session. While seating is primarily on the floor, we can accommodate wheelchairs or chairs for those with different mobility abilities. Additionally, a special Solar System show for children attending DragonsLair will be held Saturday at 1:00 PM.



### OFFICIAL ARTIST SPECIAL WORKSHOP

Official Artist Guest [Charles Urbach](#) is running a colored pencil workshop on Saturday morning, open to Boskone members 13 and up. For more information, check: <https://boskone.org/charles-urbachs-colored-pencil-workshop/>



### INSTRUMENT PETTING ZOO

**Exhibitors needed!** Friday night at Boskone, there will be an exhibit of instruments where people can get a close up look and maybe try a variety of instruments. We have some exhibitors lined up, but welcome more. If you play an instrument you are passionate about, especially one most people don't get to see up close very often, and would like to spend an hour or two showing it off and talking to people about it, please email [music@boskone.org](mailto:music@boskone.org)



### FILK/MUSIC TRACK NOT JUST FOR SINGERS

Boskone has a wide selection of opportunities to sing together every year. This year we decided to give instrumentalists a chance to play and improvise together. The "Traveler's Song" from the game Outer Wilds is a brief 8 measure piece that can be easily learned. We'll have a core group of players who know the music to anchor the session. Bring your instrument and join us -- or if you don't have one and want to play, there will be kazoos and egg shakers to borrow.

Also, the open song circles are not just for singers; instrumentalists, poets, and story-tellers are all encouraged to come and show off their art.

## DOCENT TOURS: ART SHOW & "Welcome to Boskone"

### What's a Docent Tour?

A Docent Tour is a guided tour. We will have several Docent Tours of the Art Show led by professional artists. We will have two Docent Tours called "Welcome to Boskone," aimed at newcomers to the convention. The Docent Tours of Boskone will familiarize you with the hotel and with Boskone itself.

## DEALERS, ARTISTS, & FAN GROUPS!

Make your way to the Galleria to stroll through our (almost) sold-out Dealers Room, vibrant Art Show, and Author Alley. We are pleased to welcome back long-time booksellers such as Larry Smith Booksellers, alongside a variety of other vendors old and new.

In addition to the shopping and art, be sure to visit our community participants at the Fan Tables, including Emerson College, and explore our special exhibit of Fanzines. More information regarding participants and specific highlights will be available soon.

## GAMING

Gaming at Boskone is back with just as much excitement as last year! We are returning with NESFA's collection of nearly 250 board and card games, alongside video game systems including Wii, Switch, PlayStation, and several "old school" classics. Our schedule features sci-fi favorites like *The Search for Planet X*, *Dune: Imperium*, and *Space Base*, as well as fantasy hits like *Flamecraft*, *Everdell*, and *Ascension*. Virtual Reality (VR) returns for those aged 12 and up, and we will have casual favorites like Giant Jenga and Klask available for quick play between events. Stay tuned for details on our upcoming LARP!

## VOLUNTEER FOR BOSKONE 63!

### Before, During, After and Online - we need you!

Help with a variety of tasks that include:

Program Team & Various sit-down tasks      Logistics staff  
Moving Stuff (loading and unloading the truck)  
Art Show Set Up      AV/Tech Team      Con Suite Staff  
Onsite Registration      And more!



Besides the satisfaction of a job well done, **Spiffy Rewards** for folks who work 6 -12 hours: free books, munchies (we want to keep you moving!), and an invitation to the Dead Dog Party.

For people who work 12 hours or more: free membership to next year's Boskone - double credit for pre- (before 6pm Friday) and post-convention (after 3pm Sunday) work that includes setup and teardown. (Also, six hours before 6 pm Friday will earn a membership to Boskone 63 if you don't already have a membership, and then more hours can earn a membership for Boskone 64.)

Contact us at [volunteers@boskone.org](mailto:volunteers@boskone.org) if you're interested in being a Boskone 63 volunteer and for more details about our Spiffy Rewards!

[Visit the Boskone Volunteer Page](#)

## BUY YOUR BOSKONE MEMBERSHIP!

Membership Categories for Full Convention:

(Rates good through 1/20/2026 - at the door rates will be higher)

- Adult \$65.00
- Card to Culture: Free\*\*
- Active Military: \$50.00\*
- Young Adult (ages 18-25)\* \$40.00
- Teen (ages 13-17)\* \$25.00
- Child (ages 5-12)\* \$20.00
- Kids-in-Tow \$0

*(See website for more information on Kids-in-Tow.)*

**Friday Free Hours:** Programming on Friday, February 13th in the afternoon and *is free to the public from 2:30-6:00pm*. Memberships are required after 6:00 pm on Friday and throughout the duration of the convention.



\*(ID may be required)

\*\*EBT, WIC, & ConnectorCare cardholders are eligible for a free membership to Boskone 63.

[Visit the Boskone Membership Page!](#)

## BOSKONE BOOK: KICKSTARTER

Publishing physical books has become considerably more expensive over the years. So we are here seeking your support for the NESFA Press Boskone Book for Boskone 63. **We launched a Kickstarter campaign January 6th, 2026.** Visit [tinyurl.nesfa.org/CoxKickstarter](http://tinyurl.nesfa.org/CoxKickstarter) and support this project.

This year we are pleased to announce our Boskone Book: *Dubious Pleasures* by Greg Cox. Cover art by Charles Urbach.

Dubious Pleasures will be a collection of the very best original short stories by Greg Cox, a prolific and award winning author. While much of his work is media tie-ins for Star Trek and other settings, this is a 256 page collection of his original short stories, including subjects like time travel and vampires.

[Visit the Boskone Book Kickstarter](#)



## BOSKONE 63 POLICIES

### Boskone 63 (2026) Respiratory Diseases (including COVID) Policy

(Policy as of November 8, 2025, final policy will be posted in January 2026)

Boskone 63 recommends, but does not require, that in-person members wear masks in convention spaces. We also recommend, but do not require, that in-person attendees be up to date on their seasonal vaccines (COVID-19, Influenza, etc). We also recommend that in-person attendees wash hands regularly and adhere to the 5-2-1 rule (Get at least five hours of sleep, eat at least 2 meals per day, and shower daily). If possible, test for COVID-19 before coming to the convention. If you are feeling unwell, or test positive for COVID-19, please do not come to Boskone, contact us ([registration@boskone.org](mailto:registration@boskone.org)) by Monday, February 16th, 2026 and we will roll your membership over to next year.

### Food Policy

Due to hotel restrictions, no outside food or drinks are allowed in function spaces. This includes the Galleria (Art Show, Autographing, Dealers Room, Fan Tables, Office), Harbor & Marina Foyers, Game Room, Video Room, and any Program Rooms. Drinks and light snacks will be available in the Consuite on the 16th Floor. While food and drinks purchased from the hotel are generally allowed, some spaces may have additional rules in place in order to protect various materials and equipment. These additional rules will be posted outside the spaces in question.

If you have a question about a policy, please contact us at [info@boskone.org](mailto:info@boskone.org).

[Visit the Boskone Policies Page](#)

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION: SECURITY & HOTEL BOOKING

**Official Hotel Bookings:** Please **ONLY** book your stay through the official [Boskone Hotel Page](#). Some members may get a targeted email offering a \$219 rate for Boskone reservations - *This is a scam*. Any other email offers or third-party solicitations are not legitimate and may be scams. To ensure you receive the correct convention rate and a guaranteed reservation, always use our official links.

**Your Privacy Matters:** Feel safe knowing that your personal information is used **ONLY** for Boskone and NESFA-related activities. Your data is stored in a secure location and is **NEVER** sold to third parties. If you receive an offer to purchase a "Boskone attendance list," please disregard it, as these are fraudulent claims.

## CONNECT & RECONNECT — IRL!

We invite you to connect and reconnect in person—renewing conversations, making new connections around shared interests, and welcoming new faces into the community. Whether you've been coming to Boskone for years or are thinking about attending for the first time, we look forward to gathering together at Boskone 63 in February 2026. And if you know someone who might enjoy it, bring a friend along.

To learn more about the convention, please visit [Boskone's website](#) and be sure to also review our [Code of Conduct](#). If you have any questions, please contact us at [info@boskone.org](mailto:info@boskone.org).



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*Helmut*, Boskone's official email Newsletter, is edited by Rachel Bitterfield and our at-con newsletter is edited by Josh Stern. Please send news/photos to [helmut@boskone.org](mailto:helmut@boskone.org).

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**Boskone® is brought to you by NESFA®, the [New England Science Fiction Association, Inc.](#).**

**NESFA, founded in 1967, is one of the oldest science fiction clubs in New England.**

**NESFA is a 501(c)3 organization.**

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